



Illustration by Debbie McNiel

***ERIOGONUM SALSUGINOSUM***  
**SMOOTH BUCKWHEAT**

Smooth buckwheat is an annual that often branches at the base, with stems up to 15 cm high. The mainly basal leaves are 5-30 mm long and spoon-shaped with a broad petiole, while the stem leaves may be sessile. Foliage is glabrous. The small yellow flowers have 6 lance-shaped perianth segments that are 1-3 mm long. Flowers are borne in a cup formed of 2 whorls of 3 tiny bracts each, or an involucre. The involucre is borne in an open, dichotomously-branched inflorescence located at the top of the stem. The seeds are ca. 2 mm long. Flowering in June.

Distinguished from other annual species of *ERIOGONUM* by the involucre composed of 2 whorls of 3 bracts each. A hand lens is needed for positive identification.